

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 04662 221035Z
ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 SIL-01 ONY-00 /029 W
----- 090945 /21 R
R 220955Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4662
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 4662

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO
SUBJECT: APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTRY ON DE ALWIS REMARKS

REF: STATE 306684, AND PREVIOUS

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL, I MET
ON DECEMBER 22 WITH W.T. JAYASINGHE, SECRETARY, MINISTRY
OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN
AT THE TENOR OF AMBASSADOR DE ALWIS' REMARKS AT THE
ILO GOVERNING BODY MEETING IN NOVEMBER.

2. AFTER LISTENING TO MY PRESENTATION, JAYASINGHE OFFERED
THE THOUGHT THAT DE ALWIS MAY HAVE BEEN TRYING TO MAKE
THE POINT THAT DEVELOPING NATIONS HAVE CLOUT TOO. I
REMIND HIM THAT THE AGENDA ITEM UNDER DISCUSSION WAS
A "REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRIPARTITE WORLD
CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT."

3. JAYASINGHE INQUIRED IF THE U.S. WAS SINGLED
OUT IN THE SPEECH, AND I SAID NO. HE ALSO WANTED
TO KNOW IF WE WERE OFFENDED. I REPEATED THAT WE WERE
CONCERNED WITH THE TENOR OF HIS REMARKS.
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4. I ASKED JAYASINGHE IF DE ALWIS' STATEMENT
REPRESENTED THE VIEWS OF THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT.
HE AGAIN SAID HE FELT DE ALWIS MENT NO OFFENSE,
BUT WANTED TO UNDERScore THE URGENT NEED FOR WORLD
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE

SAID HE WOULD REQUEST A COPY OF THE SPEECH AND GIVE ME
HIS VIEWS AFTER STUDY.

5. JAYASINGHE DID NOT ASK, NOR DID I VOLUNTEER THE
SOURCE OF OUR INFORMATION.
REED

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NNN

Message Attributes

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